



Lt. Governor Skillman Welcomes the FFA to Indianapolis

October in Indiana brings us the beautiful changing leaves and the sea of blue jackets in downtown Indianapolis. The jackets are worn by the young men and women attending the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis. I had the pleasure last week to welcome them to our great state and capital city.

FFA members are known for being a cut above - showing respect, going the extra mile and working hard. This is one of the only convention groups I know that comes to town in order to work. Their dedication to agriculture and the future of the industry is apparent.

The FFA convention in Indianapolis attracts a lot of attention, and they get the urbanites who live and work in Indianapolis to think about agriculture. Most Americans don't know just how much the agriculture industry does for their everyday lives - or how much they depend on it for their food, clothing and even the furnishings in their homes.

All Hoosiers should be proud of our state's rich agriculture industry. Indiana has more than 960,000 head of cattle today- that livestock supports pharmaceutical companies, equipment dealers, feed suppliers and retail stores all over the state.



Lt. Gov. Skillman speaks at the National FFA Convention that was in Indianapolis last week.

Our 2,000 dairy farms produce well over three billion gallons of milk every year. We're number one in America for duck production, second for chicken egg hatching, sixth for turkeys raised. We're the fifth largest pork producer in the country, and Hoosier

pork producers contribute \$3 billion a year to our economy - adding to the impressive \$25 billion the entire ag industry contributes every year. And if I were to list all the crops we grow, we could be here all day.

Meeting FFA members over the years has me convinced that our state's strong tradition in agriculture will continue. I know Indiana's agricultural products will continue to make a major contribution to the global market, thanks to the bright young people of the FFA.



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